

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELED)
2. (CANCELED)
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A display control system for data control during screen display operations, said system comprising:
  - a pointing device that indicates a position on a screen of a display unit; and
  - a deleting unit that successively deletes first elements of data from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position and rearranges second elements of data remaining in the specified area ~~in a spiral pattern~~ to provide an appearance that the second elements of data are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position,
  - said deleting unit including a first speed control unit that automatically controls respective time intervals to be automatically successively shorter in accordance with successive deletions of the first elements~~during which the first elements are successively deleted.~~
4. (ORIGINAL) The display control system as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:
  - a completion indicating unit that displays a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of data have been deleted as first elements of data.
5. (CANCELED)

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations, said program comprising the functions of:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

successively deleting first elements of data from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of data remaining in the specified area ~~in a spiral pattern~~, to provide an appearance that the second elements of data are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively shorter during which the first elements of data are successively deleted.

8. (ORIGINAL) The computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein said program further comprises the function of displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of data have been deleted as first elements of data.

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data processing apparatus using a computer specifically configured by execution of a program encoded on a computer-readable medium, the program controlling data display operations and including the functions of:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

successively deleting first elements of data from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of data remaining in the specified area ~~in a spiral pattern~~, to provide an appearance that the second elements of data are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively

shorter during which the first elements of data are successively deleted.

12. (ORIGINAL) The data processing apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the program further comprises the function of displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of data have been deleted as first elements of data.

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, the controller comprising:

a deleting unit that automatically successively deletes first elements of data from a specified area of a display screen at a position indicated by a pointing device and rearranges second elements of data remaining in the specified area ~~in a spiral pattern~~ to provide an appearance that the second elements of data are gradually withdrawn from the specified area,

said deleting unit including a first speed control unit that automatically controls respective time intervals to be automatically successively shorter during which the first elements are successively deleted.

16. (ORIGINAL) The display controller as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:  
a completion indicating unit that displays a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of data have been deleted as first elements of data.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a deleting unit that automatically successively deletes elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls respective time intervals to be automatically successively shorter during which the elements of data are successively deleted.

19. (CANCELED)

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a restoring unit that automatically successively restores elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls respective time intervals to be automatically successively longer during which the elements of data are successively restored to the screen.

21. (CANCELED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations, said program comprising the functions of:

automatically successively deleting elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively shorter during which the elements of data are successively deleted.

23. (CANCELED)

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations, said program comprising the functions of:

successively restoring elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively longer during which the elements of data are successively restored to the screen.

25. (CANCELED)

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a deleting unit that successively deletes elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls respective time intervals to be automatically successively varied during which the elements of data are successively deleted.

27. (CANCELED)

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a restoring unit that successively restores elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls respective time intervals to be automatically successively varied during which the elements of data are successively restored to the screen.

29. (CANCELED)

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations, said program comprising the functions of:

successively deleting elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively varied during which the elements of data are successively deleted.

31. (CANCELED)

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations, said program comprising the functions of:

successively restoring elements of data to a screen ~~in a spiral pattern~~ of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively varied during which the elements of data are successively restored to the screen.

33. (CANCELED)

34. (CANCELED)

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

successively deleting first elements of data from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of data remaining in the specified area ~~in a spiral pattern~~, to provide an appearance that the second elements of data are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively shorter during which the first elements of data are successively deleted.

36. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 35, further comprising displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of data have been deleted as first elements of data.

37. (CANCELED)

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

successively deleting elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively shorter during which the elements of data are successively deleted.

39. (CANCELED)

40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

successively restoring elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

automatically controlling respective time intervals to be automatically successively longer during which the elements of data are successively restored to the screen.

41. (CANCELED)

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

by intervals successively deleting elements of data ~~in a spiral pattern~~ of a graphic item from a screen of a display unit and shifting non-deleted data elements thereof toward at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

automatically controlling respective time of successive intervals to be successively automatically decreased as ~~varied during which~~ the elements of data are successively deleted.

43. (CANCELED)

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

by intervals successively restoring elements of data of a graphic item to a screen of a display unit and shifting restored data elements thereof away from at a position indicated by a pointing device; and

automatically controlling respective time of successive intervals to be successively automatically increased as ~~successively varied during which~~ the elements of data are successively restored to the screen.

45. (NEW) A method for erasing/restoring an image from/to a display, the method comprising:

responsive to a single user command automatically controlling application of an image thinning/expanding process such that the thinning/expanding process is applied to the image with automatic gradually increasing/decreasing speed, where an application of the thinning/expanding process thins/adds a ratio of current pixels in or to be added to the image, and where the image has an appearance of being sucked/spread like a fluid toward or away from a point of convergence/restoration.

46. (NEW) A method of erasing an image from a display, the method comprising:  
responsive to a user command, thinning the image such that it collapses inward and such that a decreasing rate of pixel removal by the thinning is compensated for by increasing a speed of the thinning, thereby approximating an appearance of suctioning away a fluid at a suction point.